

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the captioned application. The Examiner has required a restriction of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §121. Applicants elect, with traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group IV, namely claims 15, 16 and 26-28, drawn to a thermostable DNA polymerase corresponding to Figure 3. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications on the non-elected groups.

With regard to the traverse, Applicants submit that Group I, claims 1, 2 and 12-14, is related to the same general inventive concept as that of the elected group (Group IV). Applicants submit that E681R was neither disclosed nor suggested in U.S. Patent No. 6,265,193 B1 (hereinbelow the "reference"). The reference specifically listed the suitable substitution mutations, in decreasing order of preference, and E681R was not one of those listed (see column 8, lines 9-15). Applicants submit that as such, E681R defines a special technical feature over the prior art. Applicants submit that Group I should be examined together with Group IV, as they belong to the same group of invention.

Applicants believe that they have completely responded to the requirement by providing an election of the invention to be examined, even though the requirement be traversed.

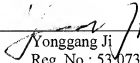
Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of the claims.

Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

GE Healthcare Bio-Sciences Corp.

By: _____


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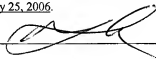
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